SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year – February 19, 1973

No 186

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

The Saigon administration must end immediately its violation of the Paris Agreement

SINCE the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam came into effect, the Saigon administration has repeatedly and very gravely violated it as well as its Protocols.

In almost all provinces of South Viet Nam, the Saigon administration mustered its troops with air and armor support to launch a series of nibbling operations in areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Aircraft and artillery bombed, shelled and sprayed toxic chemicals on many heavily populated areas in South Viet Nam, piling up new crimes against the people on the occasion of the traditional Tet Festival of the Vietnamese nation and right after the ceasefire.

In thousands of operations conducted across South Viet Nam in the past fortnight, the Saigon troops killed many children, women and old folks, looted or destroyed a large quantity of property of the people, razed to the ground their houses, pagodas and churches, and arrested for detention and torture many civilians. More serious still, extermination raids were carried out in many hamlets in the vicinity of Tay Ninh provincial capital and in Quang Ngai, Lam Dong, Thu Dau Mot and other provinces.

In the urban centers, the Saigon administration cracked down on the people, strengthened its coercive machine and abolished all democratic liberties. It conducted many police raids, arresting thousands of people, terrorizing anyone who welcomed the restoration of peace and national concord, and continued to dispose of patriotic and peace-loving people illegally detained by them. While public opinion at home and abroad pointed out that hundreds of thousands of patriots are detained in all prisons across South Viet Nam, the Saigon administration claims that there are only "two thousand" of them. It arrogantly refuses to return about 10,000 military personnel on the ground that the latter have "rallied" to the Saigon regime.

Heedless of the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and its Protocols, the Saigon administration has made about-face, deliberately hindered the activities of the joint military commissions, blockaded, provoked and ordered cruel thugs to manhandle the delegations of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and DRVN Government.

The Nguyen Van Thieu administration must bear full responsibility for its violations of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and its Protocols as well as for the losses in lives and property inflicted on the South Vietnamese people since the ceasefire order came into effect.

To whitewash its crimes, the Saigon administration has tried by all means to blame the Provisional Revolutionary Government for the present serious situation caused by itself. But, the move of "thief crying stop thief" cannot deceive public opinion nor cover up its scheme of sabotaging the Agreement. Following his ravings on *January 28, 1973 in demanding to shoot "on-the-spot" those considered as communists, on February 8, 1973, Nguyen Van Thieu declared that he would continue the "pacification" program, which means continued repression and coercion of the people and nibbling at the liberated areas. The furtherance of the "pacification" program also exposes the dark schemes of sabotaging the negotiations for national reconciliation and concord.*

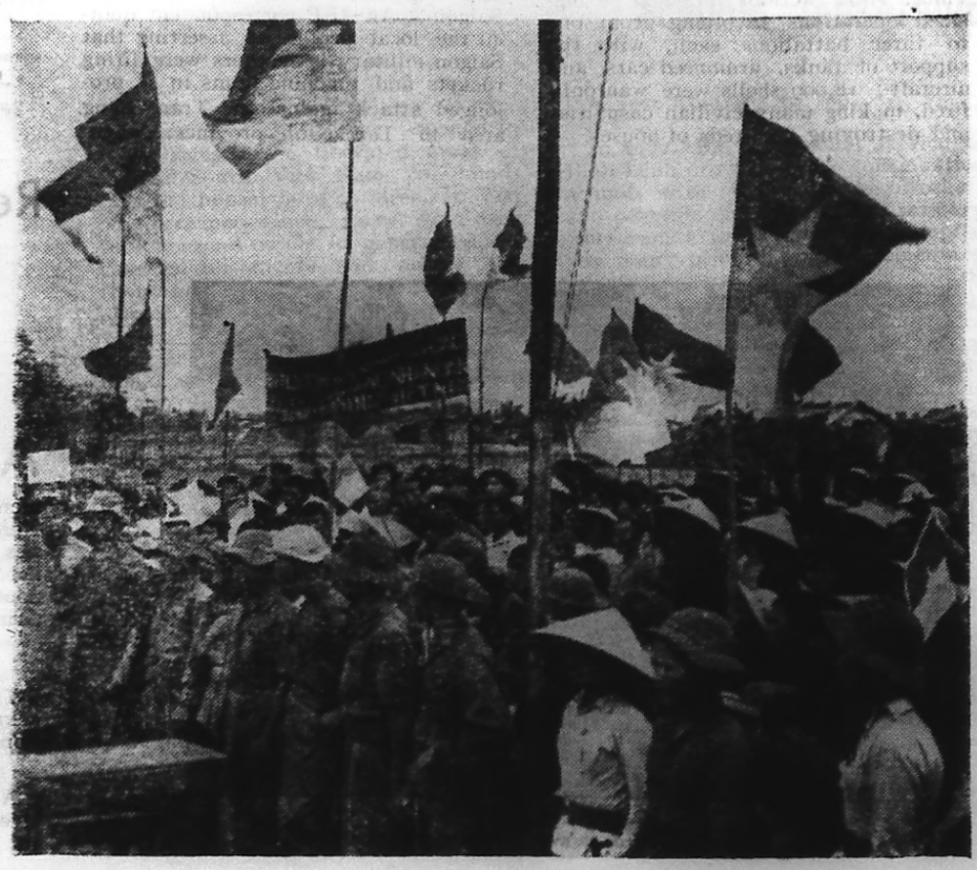
Obviously, Thieu is running counter the just and earnest aspirations of the Vietnamese nation, the American people and the peoples in the whole world who are demanding that the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam be scrupulously respected and implemented.

In face of the grave acts of sabotage of the ceasefire and peace by the Saigon administration, the US Government has taken no measures to prevent them. On the contrary, the US Government itself has violated the Agreement by refusing to discuss the dismantlement of American military bases under the pretext that it had handed over to the Saigon administration all the military bases of the United States of America and of other foreign countries in South Viet Nam and therefore it doesn't have to dismantle these bases.

The violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the United States of America and the Saigon administration are gravely menacing the peace newly restored in Viet Nam.

They must bear full responsibility for that serious situation.

SOUTH VIET NAM



Welcome to peace, in Quang Tri.

Saigon army's "Mop-ups" continue after cease-fire

THE Agreement on Ending the war and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam was warmly welcomed by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces who confidently saw in it an unprecedented victory in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign aggressions.

In strict implementation of the directives of the PLAF Command, all regular units, all regional forces and guerillas throughout South Viet Nam observed the cease-fire at the time fixed by the Agreement, remained in place and stopped all offensive actions.

However, even after the cease-fire came into effect, the Saigon administration kept deploying big military units supported by aircraft, tanks and artillery in furious operations against a number of populated areas in the liberated zone and in "sweeps" on communication lines and in the vicinity of cities. Such actions were nothing short of crude violations of Art. 3c of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and their rate has been increasing in the last fifteen days.

In Tri Thien, right on Jan. 28, the Saigon administration supported with recon planes, guns and mortars, tanks and armoured cars an encroachment of Marine brigade No 147 on the Quang Tri liberated zone, especially Cua Viet port with a view to its capture. In two days — Feb. 4 and 5 — they again assaulted the liberated areas of Tich Tuong and Nhu Le, 3 miles South of Quang Tri town. In Thua Thien province, their infantry, artillery and armour, were hurled against many localities of Phong Dien and Huong Tra districts. From Feb. 2 to 3, 81 attacks were launched by the Saigon army against the liberated areas in Ta Luong, along Highways 12 and 73, destroying many houses of the local people, looting their property and taking prisoner many helpless villagers.

In *Mid Central Viet Nam*, they made incursions into areas belonging to Binh Son, Son Tinh and Mo Duc districts, Quang Ngai province, and assailed the district capital of Ba To : Saigon troops captured in Quang Ngai on Jan. 28 revealed that they had been instructed by the commander of Division 2 to "ignore peace and keep up (their) attacks." From Jan. 30 to Feb. 2, continuous offensives were mounted by the Saigon army against the liberated areas of Duy Xuyen and Dien Ban districts, Quang Da province, Que Son and Thang Binh districts, Quang Nam province, Hoai Nhon and Bong Son, Binh Dinh province. Those actions included 78 big-sized operations involving from one to three battalions each, with the support of tanks, armoured cars and aircraft ; 18,000 shells were wantonly fired, making many civilian casualties and destroying hundreds of houses.

In the *Central Highlands*, the liberated areas North and South of Pleiku township, Northeast of Ban Me Thuot township and West and South of Kontum township came under Saigon fire. From Feb. 1 to 3, Regiments 53 and 54 were committed with a number of battalions of Security forces to raids on the liberated areas around those townships and the Mang Giang Pass area on Highway 19. Foreign correspondents who "after 3 days of demarches succeeded in meeting for a while the heads of ICC delegations in Pleiku" noted that "a few hundreds meters from there, Saigon army aircraft were taking off on the runway, carrying bombloads under their wings", and that "in the last twenty four hours 54 air sorties were carried out while artillery kept on thundering all the night around Pleiku" (*AFP*, Feb. 8).

In *Eastern Nam Bo*, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, many areas under control of the RSVN PRG came under attack by Saigon aircraft and artillery, while Security battalions and companies were marching on many localities in Baria, Long Khanh, Phuoc Long, Long An, Thu Dau Mot and Gia Dinh provinces, inflicting severe losses in human lives and property on the local population. Worse still, in Tay Ninh township, the Saigon forces dropped explosive and napalm bombs, and sprayed toxic chemicals on the Cao Dai Holy See, and Long Hoa market (Chau Thanh district). This violation of the cease-fire was witnessed by several foreign correspondents. In a dispatch dated Jan. 28, *AFP* said : "Since the cease-fire came into force, the Saigon troops have used guns, tanks and even airplanes to disengage the roads around Saigon where NFL troops had been camping on the night of Jan. 27, that means before the cease-fire". In its Jan. 29 dispatch, *Reuter* reported that "Government artillery kept on firing at midnight and explosions could be heard in Saigon". An *AFP* correspondent quoted the local people as asserting that Saigon military helicopters were firing rockets and machine guns in a prolonged attack against the Trang Bang area in Tay Ninh province, where "Communist troops had come in the hours preceding the cease-fire — "and this was unanimously admitted by the locals". "A bombing was made against a locality close to Saigon which had been occupied by NFL men before the cease-fire" (*AFP*, Jan. 30).

In the *Mekong Delta*, offensives of the Saigon Army were even more widespread, continual and prolonged against the liberated areas. In only 5 days beginning Jan. 28, they violated by 120 times the Agreement's provisions on cease-fire, firing thousands of artillery shells on the liberated area of Can Tho province, throwing dozens of battalions into assaults against PRG areas in Can Tho, Rach Gia, My Tho, Ca Mau and other provinces. There were particularly serious cases, such as the "mopping-up" operation of main force battalion 21 against the Long My and Hoa Lu areas, Rach Gia province, burning quite a number of houses and killing defenceless villagers including 44 monks and nuns. Saigon aircraft indiscriminately strafed the local people's sampans and junks as well as all hamlets displaying PRG flags to greet the return of peace and ending of war.

Western news agencies pointed out more than once that the Saigon Army "had tried to clear road sections and areas kept by the NFL prior to the cease-fire", that "many eyewitnesses this afternoon saw Saigon troops shooting at adverse troops hoisting Viet Cong flags around Cai Lay, some 56 miles South west of Saigon", and that "South Viet Nam's 105 mm guns were fiercely pounding both sides of Highway 4, aiming at NFL controlled villages... "

All those blatant breaches of the cease-fire agreement by the Saigon troops were duly punished by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces and their inroads were intercepted and rolled back by the PLAF with heavy losses in aircraft, tanks and captured men. The Saigon troops' morale was badly affected by such offences. By the hundreds, officers and men opposed marching orders, mutinied or gave up their arms and returned to their native villages.

The propaganda media of the Saigon administration have been doing their best to shift the responsibility for violations of the cease-fire on the PLAF but they can hardly conceal the Nguyen Van Thieu regime's true nature as the enemy of peace and national concord. Public opinion has not failed to notice that after US President Nixon's statement to the effect that peace in Viet Nam was very fragile, Nguyen Van Thieu declared in Saigon on Jan. 24, 1973 : "No agreement can guarantee a 100 percent peace", he noisily advocated the use of "big guns" against the people, ordered the cancellation of all leaves for his troops, called on them "not to lay down their arms even after the cease-fire", he threatened the South Vietnamese people with the "inevitability of a bloody massacre" (*Reuter*, Jan. 28).

US Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan cynically echoed Nguyen Van Thieu's warlike statements with a declaration that the US was "keeping open the possibility of using again its air force and navy" and that it "was hindered by no prohibition".

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces, always on the look-out, are ready to foil all sinister designs of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique to defend their liberated areas and ensure the strict implementation of the Cease-fire Agreement.

Lieutenant-general Tran Van Tra in an interview with newsmen

Return of 27 US and 715 Saigon military personnel

AT the Loc Ninh airport on Feb. 12, the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam handed over to the US authorities 27 US military personnel captured and detained by the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The US side signed to a statement acknowledging the return and reception of their military personnel.

Also at Loc Ninh, the representatives of the RSVN PRG on February 12 and 13 returned to the Saigon authorities 715 military personnel of the Saigon administration captured and detained by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. The representatives of the administration signed to a statement acknowledging the return and reception of the said number of persons returned by the RSVN PRG.

A team of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and a team of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission were sent to the place for observation. Many correspondents of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of foreign countries were present.

In the liberated areas

Quang Tri blazing with flags

ON January 28, 1973, at 7 a.m. sharp, triumphal archs were erected and streamers hung throughout Quang Tri province; nearly fifty thousand RSVN flags were flown looking like a rolling sea of red from Nui Cat—Lao Bao to Cua Viet seaport, from the south of Hien Luong bridge to the north of O Lau—My Chanh. Meanwhile everywhere drumbeats, tocsins and symbals sounded a thunderous welcome to peace. Meetings and demonstrations were held in every village and hamlet. Over two thousand people at Gio Le met at Ha Thuong communal house where, a century ago Can Vuong had risen up against the French. From their evacuation place, the Trieu Phong people came back to their native village for a Tet of peace and national concord.

Despite the efforts of the Saigon troops to encroach upon the liberated area around Cua Viet, Quang Tri was overbrimming with joy; an atmosphere of peace pervaded its mountains and rivers. The RSVN flags fluttered on top of houses and trees. Slogans welcoming the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the heroic PLAF were seen at all villages and roads.

While Gio Linh, Cam Lo and Dong Ha were in such a jubilant mood, the inhabitants of Trieu Phong and Hai Lang districts had to take up arms to repel the Saigon troops who attempted an inroad into their territory.

All the Quang Tri people turned out in the streets, ready to resist all breaches of the peace agreement. Their ranks were closer than ever in this struggle to defend peace and national concord, to rebuild their native land and to shape a new life.

Song of Peace and National Concord

150,000 copies of the Appeal made by the NFL and PRG were distributed in the provinces around Saigon by the Information Service of Ba Ria—Long Khanh province. This service has also circulated over ten thousand copies of bulletins and text-books and over twenty thousand news pictures, historical documents and photos on the new life in the liberated zone. Before the cease-fire, theatrical troupes performed in fifty localities in the newly liberated areas.

In Binh Long province, mobile projection teams have screened newsreels on the achievements recorded in production and construction work in both zones of Viet Nam. The information services of the provinces of Ben Tre, My Tho, Long An, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, An Giang, have given theatrical performances and published papers to keep the inhabitants in liberated areas abreast with the latest developments.

In My Tho and Ben Tre provinces, the "Van Nghe Dong Khoi" and "Van Nghe Xung Kich" have been published; 3 million leaflets have been distributed to explain the NFL and PRG policy on peace and national concord; nearly one hundred folk song and dance shows and photo displays have been organized for 90,000 people. The Cultural Service of Tra Vinh province has put out papers and pictorial bulletins describing the enthusiasm of the inhabitants in the liberated zone. In Vinh Long province, the Information Service has given theatrical shows in 23 localities of the free area. The song and dance ensembles of Quang Da and Binh Dinh provinces have performed for hundreds of thousands of spectators in the liberated zone.

All these artistic activities have been aimed at mobilizing the masses to force the Saigon authorities to strictly implement the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

Victory dance

Rach Gia and Ben Tre in exultation

On February 3, 1973, a formal gathering was staged by the NFL provincial Committee and the Revolutionary People's Committee of Rach Gia province to welcome peace and national concord. It was attended by over ten thousand people, including officers, soldiers and inhabitants coming from the liberated areas, "strategic hamlets" and urban centres, who displayed slogans hailing peace and the PRG.

Speaking at the meeting, the representative of the Rach Gia Revolutionary People's Committee described the cessation of hostilities and re-establishment of peace in Viet Nam as a historical victory of the Vietnamese people after 18 years of a gruelling effort in the North as well as in the South.

The attendance was very proud of the signal achievements scored by the South Vietnamese people, against overwhelming odds.

Immediately after hearing the cease-fire order, tens of thousands of people in Ben Tre province made feverish preparations to welcome in a spring of peace. Defying enemy harsh repression our countrymen penned in "strategic hamlets" fought stubbornly and forced the Saigon authorities to let them return to the liberated areas. Thousands of families were thus reunited in their native land.

A reunion dinner

The children and Old Muoi beside themselves with joy ran to the gate to greet a small young man over twenty, clad like a schoolboy. They showed him into the house. He was moved to see josssticks burning on the altar. His mother was on the verge of tears. His wife stood in the verandah, wrapped in thought.

Old Muoi put his hands on the young man's shoulders and said: "Why are you so late, sonny? I was on tenterhooks. I am about to send your wife to fetch you for Têt".

Hai, the young man, looked at the crowd and said: "I made up my mind to go home immediately after the cease-fire order, but my CO's kept a close watch."

After a short while, the old man asked: "You return home for good, don't you?"

Hai handed his father a slip of paper: "I've seen the townlet revolutionary people's committee and obtained the permission to come home and spend Tet with you for a few days."

That evening Old Muoi's family sat down to a reunion dinner. In the light of a kerosene lamp and amidst the smell of josssticks, Old Muoi told the neighbours coming to pay their compliments of the season:

"What a wretched life was the boy's!" he said, referring to Hai. Many times a draft dodger, he was finally impressed by Mr Thieu into the 'civil guard'".

Old Muoi's wife struck in: "Not only he, but all our village was victimized by Mr Thieu."

Half way through the meal, Hai asked: "How are our ricefields doing?"

"Very well!" his mother replied. "The last crop was heavier than the previous ones, and this Têt we aren't in want of anything. The revolutionary power supplied us with pumps and technical advice, and we've been able to complete farming work ahead of schedule."

Old Muoi looked affectionately at the children who were surrounding Hai, then at his neighbours, feeling secure about the future. At long last, his family as well as many others can settle down for a merry Tet of reunion.

Schools mushroom

In the second half of 1972, over one hundred schools were opened in 60 villages in the liberated areas of Central South Viet Nam, for hundreds of thousands of children. In Ben Tre province alone, there were over ten thousand pupils in general education establishments and nearly one thousand students in continuation classes.

In the last 9 months, the educational service of Tra Vinh province set up 126 new schools and organized 60 general education study groups consisting of over ten thousand children. In Cang Long district alone, within one month, the school population rose from 100 to 300.

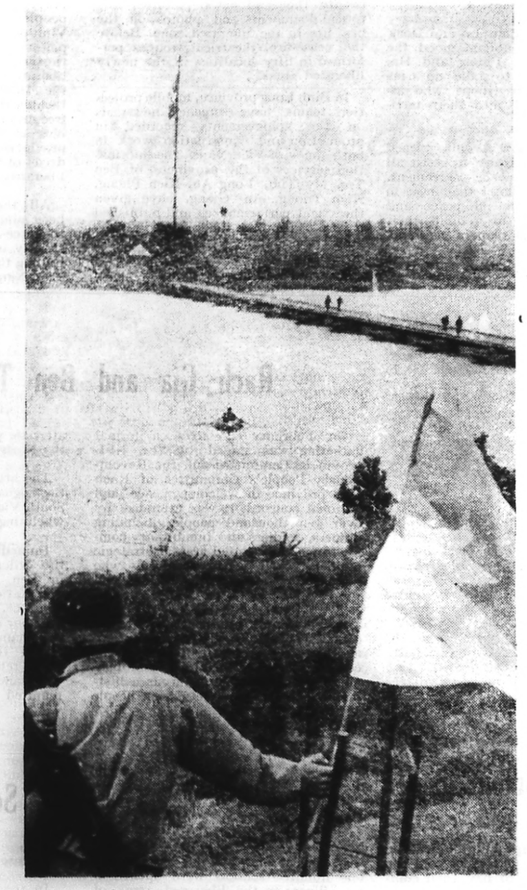
In 1972, the educational service of Binh Dinh province ran 8 continuation schools with 18 classes for workers and peasants and nearly 800 primary education classes for 27,000 pupils. 700 new primary and elementary school teachers were trained. In Dai Loc district, (Quang Da province), out of 6 inhabitants one receives general education or complementary education. Almost all the hamlets and villages in 3 mountainous districts of Khanh Hoa province held seminaries on educational work; illiteracy was virtually liquidated in 75 per cent of villages in Vinh Son district.

GRAND MEETING MARKS 12th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SVN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES

ADMIST the jubilant atmosphere nation wide celebrations of a Spring of great victory, a grand meeting to mark the 12th anniversary of the unification of the South Viet Nam PLAF was jointly held on February 13, 1973 in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam by the Defense Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The meeting hall, adorned with flags, streamers and flowers and gleaming in the bright electric light, was overflowed by the delegates of the PLAF and people pouring in from all battlefields and localities. In the middle of the wall above the rostrum hung a huge portrait ot the venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh who smiled with his children who had brought glory to the Fatherland. The side walls were lined up with the words: "Let's remember forever the great services of President Ho Chi Minh" and "Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom."

The meeting was attended by representatives of the PRG, the NFL Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. Also on hand were representatives of the various armes and services of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, hero units, heroes and heromes and of the various central and local organs of power and mass organizations.



Peace has been restored. RSVN PRG and DRVN flags flutter over the Ben Hai river's banks

The ceremony began at 19:00 hrs sharp. Mr, Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRG of the RSVN, led the members of the presidium to the rostrum admist a thunderous ovation. Young Pioneers ran up to the rostrum and presented bouquets to the presidium members.

The grand meeting hall resounded with the well-known hymn "Giai Phong Mien Nam" (Let's Liberate the South).

Mr. Tran Nam Trung, Minister of Defense delivered an important speech. Reviewing the progress of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in the past 12 years he said their fight and growth have been closely associated with the people's war from the concerted uprisings, the defeat of the "Special War", "Limited war" and "Vietnamized war" of the US imperialists, to the strategic offensives of Spring 1968 and of 1972 which had recorded tremendous victories.

He said: The road full of trials, sacrifices and splendid victories which we have traveled has highlighted the fine tradition of "boundless loyalty, extreme courage and splendid victory" of the PLAF who have made a worthy contribution to the historic victory of the whole nation after more than a century of struggle against foreign invaders.

Mr. Tran Nam Trung proposed that all the participants paid a silent tribute to the heroes and heroines, fellow countrymen and comrades who had laid down their lives in the anti-US fight for national salvation of the Vietnamese people. Special tribute was paid to the great services of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved and venerated father of the nation, the prominent leader of the Vietnamese revolution and the beloved founder of the Viet Nam People's Armed Forces, who had dedicated all his life to national independence and freedom and who had organized and led all the victories of the nation.

On behalf of the armed forces, Mr. Tran Nam Trung expressed profound gratitude to the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government who had organized and led the armed forces to steady growth in the past dozen years, making a glorious contribution to the anti-US fight for national salvation of our entire people.

Truong Van Khoa, PLAF's valiant fighters, twice decorated, happy to be welcomed by his fellow-countrymen along-shore the Ben Hai river

Tran Nam Trung also expressed profound gratitude to the South Vietnamese people who had fostered and protected the liberation armed forces and to the blood-sealed people and armed forces in the North who had given wholehearted support to the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The Minister then highlighted the close militant solidarity between the three Indochinese peoples in the struggle against the common enemy, and thanked all the friends in the five continents for their hearty support to Viet Nam's anti-US struggle for national salvation.

Dealing with the new situation, Mr. Tran Nam Trung vehemently condemned all the violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the United States and the Saigon administration violations which sabotaged the return of peace and national concord. The Minister called on all the liberation combatants to strictly implement the Agreement as a firm basis for forcing the other side to correctly implement all the provisions of the Agreement.

He laid down the new tasks for the People's Armed Forces who, he said, have to work well and together with the entire people to overcome all the aftermaths of war and build South Viet Nam into a land of peace, independence, democracy and national concord.

President Huynh Tan Phat, on behalf of the NFL Central Committee and the PRG, congratulated the liberation forces in their great achievements.

He stressed: "Peace has been restored in Viet Nam but not yet consolidated, the US imperialists still dream of maintaining their neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. Therefore our people have to bring into full play the victories they have won, enhance unity among all social strata, proceed from the spirit of national concord to strictly implement the Paris Agreement so as to preserve peace and bring real independence, democracy and a life of plenty to everybody."

The meeting wound up in an atmosphere of jubilation and pride of all the participants in an historic spring of great victory of the Vietnamese nation.

PLAF fighters ferrying over the Quang Tri river

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Inhabitants in Hai Lang filling up bomb craters

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AN INVINCIBLE ARMY

Over the past 12 years, growing in the storm of the earth-shaking uprising of the South Vietnamese people, the PLAF have gone through a long and arduous struggle and won very glorious victories. Under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and enjoying the love and assistance from the people, the PLAF have grown up quickly, carrying to new heights the glorious tradition of the Viet Nam revolutionary armed forces.

Through 12 years of fighting and build-up, the PLAF have become an invincible army.

Today, the resistance war against the US, for national salvation of the Vietnamese people, has won a very glorious victory. The PLAF and people of South Viet Nam have created a solid basis and new favourable conditions for the completion of the national democratic revolution.

However, the militarist and fascist forces, instrument of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, are seeking to sabotage the Paris Agreement, undermine peace and oppose national concord. They are using every means, military, political, ecomomic, psychological... to weaken the revolutionary forces, nibble at and sabotage the liberated areas.

The PLAF, together with the rest of the South Vietnamese people, are strengthening their fighting will and vigilance, determined to make the opponent seriously implement the signed agreement, with a view to realizing independence, democracy, improvement of the people's life and national concord. At the same time, they are resolved to defend the liberated areas, protect the life and property of the people, ready to smash all provocative and sabotage acts of the enemy.

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In fighting posture

Triumphant entry into Quang Tri town

DRVN Economic Delegation winds up visits to fraternal socialist countries

RECENTLY, a DRVN economic delegation headed by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi made friendship visits to various socialist countries and held talks on economic and military aid to Viet Nam in 1973, at their invitation.

For more than two months, from mid-November 1972 to late January 1973, it visited China, the Soviet Union, Romania, Hungary, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In those countries, the delegation was accorded a warm reception by the governments and people. The talks between the Party and State leaders of the host countries and the Delegation took place in an atmosphere of whole-heartedness and fraternal comradeship and achieved splendid results. The agreements concluded included those on economic and military aid to Viet Nam in 1973, on the strengthening of economic, scientific and technical co-operation, and on goods exchanges in 1973.

With the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, agreements have been signed on the founding of the Commissions for economic, scientific and technica co-operation. In particular, China and the Soviet Union have completed with the DRVN accords on non-refundable economic and military aid for 1973.

The fruitful trip of Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi has shown the steadfastness of the militant solidarity and long-standing friendship between the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and the Vietnamese. It has helped strengthen the potentials of North Viet Nam and increase the material as well as moral strength of the Vietnamese people in both zones in their fight against aggression, for independence and freedom and will create auspicious conditions for North Viet Nam to rapidly heal the wounds of the war, rehabilitate and develop economy and strengthen national defence. It has a immediate decisive purport for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and a long-range effect on the consolidation of the independence and freedom of Viet Nam, and on the realization of the peaceful reunification of the country, the ultimate goal of the entire Vietnamese people.

Dr Kissinger arrives in Hanoi

Dr Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the President of the United States, arrived in Hanoi on February 10, 1973, and left Hanoi on February 13, 1973. He was accompanied by Mr Herbert G. Klein, Director of Communications for Executive Branch, Ambassador William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, and other American officials.

During his stay in Hanoi, Dr Henry A. Kissinger was received by Premier Pham Van Dong, Special Adviser Le Duc Tho, and Vice-Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh. The DRVN side and the US side had frank, serious, and constructive exchanges of views on the implementation of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam which was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973, as well as postwar relations between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States, and other subjects of mutual concern. Special Adviser Le Duc Tho and Dr Kissinger also held discussions in a continuation of their meetings which took place in Paris during the past four years. In addition to those working sessions, Dr. Kissinger and his party visited a number of points of interest in Hanoi.

The two sides carefully reviewed the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam in the recent period. They discussed various imperative measures which should be taken to improve and expedite the implementation of the Agreement, and also agreed that they would continue to have periodic exchanges of views in order to ensure that the Agreement and its Protocols are strictly and scrupulously implemented, as the signatories have undertaken.

The two sides welcomed the discussions between the two South Vietnamese parties for the purpose of carrying out the provisions concerning self-determination in South Viet Nam, in accordance with the stipulations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States declared that the full and scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam would positively contribute to the cause of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia on the basis of strict respect for the independence and neutrality of the countries in this region.

The two sides reaffirmed that the problems existing between the Indochinese countries should be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They welcomed the negotiations between the parties in Laos, which are intended to produce a peaceful settlement in that country.

The two sides exchanged views on the manner in which the United States will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to post-war economic reconstruction in North Viet Nam. They agreed to establish a DRVN—US Joint Economic Commission. This Commission, which will be composed of an equal number of representatives from each side, will be charged with the task of developing the economic relations between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States.

The two sides also exchanged views on the convening of the International Conference on Viet Nam, as provided for in Article 19 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. They will continue their consultations with the other participants in the Conference so as to prepare the ground for a successful meeting.

The two sides considered the post-war relationship between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States, and examined concrete steps which can be taken to normalize the relations between the two countries. They agreed on certain general principles which should govern their mutual relations:

— All provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its Protocols should be fully and scrupulously implemented.

— The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States should strive for a new relationship based on respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit.

— The normalization of the relations between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States will help to ensure stable peace in Viet Nam and contribute to the cause of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Dr Kissinger and his party expressed warm appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Both sides hope that this visit will mark the beginning of new bilateral relations.

the DRVN in brief

o In the last days, the Nam Dinh Silk Factory has diligently repaired and set going again twenty more weaving looms in excess of plan. Productivity of the workers has almost been restored to pre-war level. In January 1973, the factory turned out 23,000 metres of silk more than in December 1972. For the current quarter, the factory plans to produce 100,000 metres of highgrade silk above schedule.

o Rehabilitation has been in full swing in the Quang Ninh coal mining area. On January 28, over 8,000 young workers and self-defence men in Ha Tu, Ha Lam, Deo Nai and other coal mines held a meeting, followed by a torch procession through the streets in Hong Gai town to demonstrate the spirit of the Vietnamese coal miners and also to launch a new emulation campaign in production. Later, the participants cleared the debris of various bombed sites to rebuild production facilities destroyed by enemy raids.

o The Cuong No agricultural co-operative on Hanoi outskirts has been making good the aftermaths of B.52 strikes. While bulldozers were all in a bustle the farmers replanted the damaged fields. They have transplanted the rice-seedlings missed by the B.52's on 15 hectares. They have also repaired the main canal to supply water in time to the current summer crops.

o Building workers and technicians are making urgent preparations for rehabilitating the war damaged or destroyed bridges, thermopower and hydropower factories and residential quarters. The assembly teams, in co-ordination with building teams of the Railway Service, were busy throughout the Lunar New Year holidays restoring Long Bien bridge in Hanoi to traffic three days earlier than scheduled.

On February 3, the people of Dong Hoi town, capital of Quang Binh province, and the bridge building service in the province held a jubilant rally for the restored bridge across the Nhat Le river. Reconstruction work had started right after the bombing halt. Apart from professional bridge builders, every day from 1,500 to 2,000 people from the towns took part in the undertaking. Within only ten days, this wooden bridge with concrete piles was completed and opened to traffic.

o The Nam Dinh Textile Complex has decided to make more than 150,000 metres of textile in excess of plan in the first quarter of this year. In the first days of peace, it put into operation over 120 more weaving looms and many other machines, an increase of 20% over the war-time period. The weaving, dyeing, engineering, electric and general service sections have quickly repaired and put into operation most of their machines and equipment with a higher output than previously.

o In the Viet Tri industrial complex, many factories have resumed production on the arrival of the new year.

At the power-plant, a new turbine and a 6-KV distributor have been installed. Many furnaces and generators have been restored. The furnace workshop which has been restored to normal, has reduced coal consumption by 100 grammes for every kilowatt of power.

Many workshops and teams at the paper, sugar, rice-husking, chemical, vermicelli and gourmet powder factories have agreed to fulfil extra plans.

Electric workers at the sugar factory have completed the assembly of two more boilers, raising the total capacity to eight ton per hour, thus ensuring self-sufficiency in steam for the boiler workshop. The sugar-making workshop has strictly met technical norms in all links of the production line.

Before the camera

The certainly winning fight

DOCUMENTARIES and newreels are interesting to the viewers because of their images of men and events the majority of the public already know through newspapers and radio and wish to see in pictures. Cinema workers of the Liberation Army Film Studio who always keep in close touch with the battlefront often succeed in recording rare and unexpected scenes of grim fighting, full of excitement. The cameramen make the most of the superiority of documentaries and newsreels and their works always capture our public's special attention.

In the new productions of the Liberation Army film studio, the dramatic gains of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people over "Vietnamization" are strikingly pictured.

The long documentary "Highway 9 victory" is a quite substantial work which depicts in a systematic way the whole large-scale campaign jointly carried out by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people and their Lao counter-parts against Operation Lam Son 719 of the US and its agents on the Highway 9 — Southern Laos front (1971). The one-hour footage gives us a survey of the initial plots of Nixon when he entered the White House and records everyone of his setbacks which culminate in a disaster for his wicked "Vietnamization". With a series of maps showing the enemy attack prongs and the directions of our offensive and statistics listing the enemy forces involved and their heavy battle losses, the events filmed seem to evolve before the very eyes of the Operational staff, thereby giving the audience a deep insight into the entire battle.

With in the framework of such a major and far-reaching occurrence, the authors have been able to supply many details which characterize the men involved in it. Memorable are the sequences of our fighters dashing forward in the dark night amidst flashes of artillery fire, the impressive images of the Liberation fighters charging elements, the "Black Tiger", "Mad Buffalo" and "Black Panther", and of columns of suppliers going up hill and down dale along the Truong Son mountain tracks. Many scenes painstakingly shot have a great documentary value : a captured enemy tank hauled back to base, an enemy chopper split into 2 pieces by a ground hit, etc. many close-ups illustrate in detail the sinking morale of those serving as cannon-fodder for the aggressors. Portraits have been filmed with discernment of haggard-looking, bearded and tattered prisoners of war, eloquent refutations of the US-Saigon braggadocio about the "indigenous-ground-troops-plus-US fire-power" formula. The camera lens closely scrutinizes its subjects and even the few lines written down in diaries, on combat fatigues or on car doors are legible on the screen. Pervaded with war-weariness, despair and frustration, they speak volumes for the fate of the mercenaries and impart to the film a real political purport. A synchronised section of the film with the declarations of battalion commander Hue who was asked by the US-Saigon command to play the main role in the "March on Chepone" farce but was captured right upon landing denotes the high professional standard of the Liberation Army cinema workers, and brings out the truthfulness of the material of the film. The music and its smooth execution by the orchestra of the Liberation Army Film Studio add to the value of the picture.

Events in the "Highway 9 Victory" are more than a year old. Yet the film has not lost much of its topicality as it was released right at the moment when the South Vietnamese armed forces and people were swinging into action against Nixon's scheme to "change the colour of the corpses". Time has made it possible for the authors to review the "old" so as to better grasp the "new."

For this reason, although the film deals with past developments, the audience can visualize the prospects opened up by these. As the film commentary puts it, the inescapable conclusion is : "The armed forces and peoples of Indochina are well in a position to follow up their victory."

This strong and winning posture is becoming a reality on the battlefield and has been recorded in time in the special documentary "The Quang Tri — Thua Thien armed forces and people attack in strength and with success." As the wave of offensives is still going on, it is impossible to make a round-up and paint a full picture in one work ; fully aware of the characteristics of newsreels, Liberation Army film makers did a good job against great odds in the development, printing, transport and release of their productions for the public everywhere to see events as if they were recorded live. The dramatic battles which led to the complete destruction of the US — Saigon "steel perimeter" of Dong Ha, Ai Tu, La Vang, Quang Tri, etc. are flashed on the screen at the right psychological moment.

Although these are snapshots taken on the battlefield, they illustrate our cameramen's acumen and sensitiveness. Alongside scenes of grim fighting there are stirring sequences like inaugurations of the revolutionary administration in newly liberated areas, solemn but simple under a portrait of President Ho Chi Minh and a flag of the PRG, the radiant faces and affectionate look of the inhabitants coming out to welcome the Liberation fighters, the poised gesture of Liberation officers receiving weapons from Saigon breakaway troops, etc. The portrayal of the 20 valiant fighters who with the help of the local people seized the Quang Tri bridge in a surprise raid, though very brief on the screen, leaves a deep impression on one's mind of the daring and combativeness of the Liberation fighters.

Liberation Army film makers are exploring the possibilities of artistic documentaries, a field where they have more than once achieved remarkable results. The film "Young girls of Liberation Army Company 3" is a lyrical paean to the 85 young girls of Company 3 operating in Central Viet Nam. In the past years, their sensible feet have covered tens of thousands of miles through jungled mountains under enemy bombing and shelling, moving tens of thousands of tons of supplies to the front, doing their bits in the successes of Tam Ky, Kham Duc, Highway 9, etc. The poetry of the pictures keeps pace with the rolling majesty of the Truong Son range. At times it follows the agile steps of the army carriers or tinges the thoughts and feelings of Miss Huong, Miss Phao and Miss Nguyen reminissing on the aggressors crimes against them and their families. Now and then it glimmers in memories of the venerated Uncle Ho and his words, or wings after the dream of the staunch and undaunted young girls of South Viet Nam who are expecting a bright future, looking forward to the day of their full emancipation. The poem concludes with "steel" images : the feelings, and the dream of the C.3 young girls have been translated into practical deeds which pour fire on the aggressors and the traitors.

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The productions of the Liberation Army Film Studio depict in vivid colours the fight of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the new stage, a certainly fruitful effort. Each film is an achievement of "the art of using the camera as a weapon against the enemy", in the research and artistic labour of its makers. In this sense the new works of the Liberation Army film makers carry great conviction and inspiration, and at the same time make a remarkable contribution to the national revolutionary cinematographic art.

PHAM NGOC TRUONG

For our beloved Fatherland

TOGETHER with the people in both zones of the country, our residents in the five continents have enthusiastically welcomed the country's tremendous victory with meetings, statements, messages and cultural evenings and dance and song performances.

Right on the day of the signing of the peace agreement, the Vietnamese Residents' Union in the US held an impressive rally in downtown San Francisco, attended by over 1,000 participants. A statement issued on the occasion pointed out : "The agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam is a big victory, not only for the liberation movement in Viet Nam, but also for the oppressed and peace-loving people the world over. We sincerely express our unbounded gratitude toward the liberation fighters led by the RSVN PRG's and fully supported by the Vietnamese people, our courageous and patriotic fellow-countrymen who checked the US massive air attacks in North Viet Nam." The statement called on the Vietnamese nationals to heighten vigilence against the new US schemes. After the meeting, the participants paraded on the main thoroughfares, celebrated their Têt of peace and victory and gave folk song and dance performances.

About 100 Vietnamese students in Japan also held similar commemorations. They repeatedly chanted : "Long live peace" and passed a resolution pledging to keep up actions to get the US to strictly implement the peace provisions.

The Vietnamese residing in Britain have sent home a message of greeting, pledging to strengthen solidarity and do their utmost as their share in the new effort and national reconstruction. 100 pounds were collected for the "help home" fund.

The Vietnamese Residents' Union in France organized a soirée to "welcome the Spring of peace and Tet of triumph." It was attended by over 5,000 people coming from all parts of the country. The occasion was graced by Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RSVN PRG Delegation and Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Delegation.

Opening the social, the Union's President voiced his fellow members' elation at the country's tremendous victory, homage to the venerated memory of President Ho Chi Minh and to the entire people at home who together with the fighters took part in the arduous anti-US for national salvation resistance. He also outlined the Vietnamese residents' determination to strengthen solidarity and national concord and contribute to the strict implementation of the peace agreement, the building of a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam and the eventual peaceful reunification of the country.

Vietnamese residents in France always attached to their Motherland

The whole world shares our joy

THE South Vietnamese people's fight for national liberation has for years been followed with profound sympathy and admiration by progressive public opinion in the five continents. In recent days, right after the signing of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam which crowned the most glorious resistance war against foreign aggression of the Vietnamese people, a jubilant mood has been prevailing among our friends throughout the world. From all corners of the earth, heartfelt congratulations have been forwarded to this small stretch of land. The great significance of Viet Nam's victory for the development of the democratic and progressive movements the world over has been highlighted.

"This is not only a victory of the Vietnamese, of a small country, held together by a sound and clearsighted leadership, daring to fight and win over the US imperialists -- the topmost imperialists in the present era, but also that of the militant solidarity of the peoples of the Indochinese peninsula and of the common cause for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress of the world peoples." (Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front's Central Committee).

"Living up to their unparalleled own value, with their monolithic resolve, their unbelievable staying power and their determination to win, coupled with the extentive aid of the socialist camp and the active solidarity of all the peoples on the mainland including progressive Americans, the Vietnamese have recorded a victory of unusual significance and size.

It is a model encouragement for millions of people now struggling for independence and honour in Africa, Asia and Latin America." (Cuban Premier Fidel Castro).

"This historic victory reflects the steady, significant and favourable trend to the socialist forces, to the national liberation movement and peace. This is a glowing example of the successful liberation struggle of all nations." (E. Honecker, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany).

"The victory of historic importance of the South Vietnamese once again eloquently proves that no US imperialist aggressive force can subdue a people who put up with arms in hand a sacred struggle for freedom and independence. It greatly inspires the oppressed peoples' liberation struggle and world peace." (Chairman Kim Il Sung and Premier I Kim Il of the KDPR).

"For the third world, this victory has strongly stimulated the movement for national liberation of the oppressed peoples who have always found in Viet Nam's militant example confidence in, and inspiration for, their own struggle. It has, in the proportions of a revolution, brought self-confidence to other peoples in their nequal fight against the imperialist and colonialist domination." (Algerian Foreign Minister A. Bouteflika).

For peace-loving mankind, "Viet Nam's victory is one of the cause for genuine freedom and peace the world over which has brought happiness to the Vietnamese and other peoples who have been constantly wishing for peace in the world." (Peruvian President J. Velasco Alvarado).

The Nigerian Government declared:

"The Federal Military Government highly appreciates the heroic Vietnamese people's lesson taught the world, especially to the oppressed peoples of Africa still under the colonialists' and racists' rule. Our brothers in South Africa and the Portuguese colonies must engrave in their hearts the Vietnamese message that man can get the better of even the biggest forces."

Many governments, international, regional and national organizations have also reaffirmed their resolve to continue backing the South Vietnamese in their new struggle.

"The Soviet people are unswervingly resolved to reserve for their Vietnamese brothers all necessary support", the message of the Soviet Party and State leaders to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat said, "and constantly stand by the side of the South Vietnamese patriots in their just struggle, in their implementation of the peace agreement, and building of a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam."

"The Chinese people enthusiastically greet the Vietnamese people's victory as their own", the message of the Chinese Party and State leaders wrote: "We will always stand by the side of our Vietnamese brothers, of the three fraternal Indochinese peoples, and resolutely uphold their just cause."

The message of the Polish Party and State leaders read:

"The Polish people will continue effectively backing your efforts to restore national unity and build a progressive and democratic society in your country."

The message of the Hungarian Party and State leaders said:

"In the past, we stood by you in the most difficult hours of your fight, and in the future, we will continue to do so. It is a dictate of man's sense of honesty and honour."

The OSPAAAL's statement wrote:

"The US imperialists have suffered a heavy setback in Viet Nam. However, the reactionary and warlike forces have not yet given up their attempt to impose a new colonialist regime in South Viet Nam. Peace has been restored, but not yet consolidated. The Vietnamese people's struggle has entered a new stage, and still has to face many difficulties and complications. Once again, we reaffirm our determination to continue all support to the Vietnamese people's endeavour to consolidate peace, implement the peace accord, heal their war wounds and build a new life of welfare and happiness."

"The present situation in South Viet Nam," the World Peace Council wrote to President Huynh Tan Phat said "is still a subject of concern for all the peace-loving people the world over, therefore we will carry on the campaign launched by the World Peace Council for the release of all South Vietnamese political prisoners. We will continue denouncing Thieu's crimes and all his manoeuvres to undermine the accord signed."

Wholehearted support to the Vietnamese people

Besides demonstrations, meetings and socials to welcome the South Vietnamese people's victory and share their joy, people in the world have been also impelling the movement for material aid to Viet Nam. In many European, Asian, Latin American and African countries the movement to volunteer to go to Viet Nam and help with its reconstruction, to restore and develop its economy and even tend Vietnamese children for their parents to have time to take part in production, the movement of money collection to help rebuild Vietnamese hospitals and schools destroyed by US bombs, and the "a cement bag to Viet Nam from each citizen" campaign have been on the upsurge. They have become nation-wide like in Sweden, Denmark...